

Sermon: BattleStrong part 6: Practice Your Freedom

Text: 2 Kings 7

Date: Sunday Sept. 27th, 2020

BattleStrong Challenge: committing to memory Ephesians 6:10–18 (ESV)

This week (vs. 15&16): *and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one;*

Today's Message: Practice Your Freedom

Consider all that is or attempts to control us:

Message Text: 2 Kings 7:1-20

For Reading: *But Elisha said, "Hear the word of the Lord: thus says the Lord, Tomorrow about this time a seah of fine flour shall be sold for a shekel, and two seahs of barley for a shekel, at the gate of Samaria." ² Then the captain on whose hand the king leaned said to the man of God, "If the Lord himself should make windows in heaven, could this thing be?" But he said, "You shall see it with your own eyes, but you shall not eat of it."*

³ *Now there were four men who were lepers at the entrance to the gate. And they said to one another, "Why are we sitting here until we die? ⁴ If we say, 'Let us enter the city,' the famine is in the city, and we shall die there. And if we sit here, we die also. So now come, let us go over to the camp of the Syrians. If they spare our lives we shall live, and if they kill us we shall but die." ⁵ So they arose at twilight to go to the camp of the Syrians. But when they came to the edge of the camp of the Syrians, behold, there was no one there.*

¹⁶ *Then the people went out and plundered the camp of the Syrians. So a seah of fine flour was sold for a shekel, and two seahs of barley for a shekel, according to the word of the Lord.*

The story: (notes)

God's Message to us:

- 1. The marginalized are never marginalized by God**
- 2. Don't let the enemy control you even when he surrounds you.**

Two of most common ways the "enemy" gains control:

1. Perpetual saturation of sameness
2. Fear of loss (self-preservation)

3. Mocking or underestimating God's power is a grave mistake.

Remember: "The enemy is a master at deception but God is THE Master of Deliverance"

Application:

Asking ourselves: "I'm most controlled by _____?"

Romans 6:22 (ESV) ²² But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life.

Galatians 5:1 (ESV) For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

ILL: President Abraham Lincoln signing the Emancipation Proclamation

Ephesians 6:16–18 (ESV) ¹⁶ In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷ and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, ¹⁸ praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,

John 8:31–32 (ESV)

³¹ So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

John 8:34–36 (ESV)

³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. ³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

Practice your freedom:

1. Daily routines that engage the heart and head
2. Engage more deeply with the Body of Christ

What are you willing to risk to practice your freedom?

*2 Kings 7:3-4 ³ Now there were four men who were lepers at the entrance to the gate. And they said to one another, "Why are we sitting here until we die? ⁴ If we say, 'Let us enter the city,' the famine is in the city, and we shall die there. And if we sit here, we die also. So now come, let us go over to the camp of the Syrians. If they spare our lives we shall live, and **if they kill us we shall but die.***